

DECLASSIFIED

SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 MONTEVIDEO 881

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00381 01 OF 02 171300Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FA-05 OES-07 NAS-01 IO-13 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAF-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01
/107 W

EXCISE

-----024945 171417Z /46

P R 171155Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6050

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 0381

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM UY

SUBJ: NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE VISIT
REF: MONTEVIDEO 2660 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DOCTORS CHRISTIAN ANFINSEN AND ROBERT PERRY
ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF MEMBER JAY DAVENPORT VISITED URUGUAY
MARCH 3-14 ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (NAS)
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. VISITORS MET WITH PRESIDENT AND
MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL, AND REPRESENTATIVE
OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND VISITED IMPRISONED MATHEMATICIAN,
AND FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, DR. LUIS MASSERA
AND HIS WIFE. IN ADDITION TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM, GROUP
HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF URUGUAYAN SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITY, GAVE A LECTURE AND CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY RECTOR. AMBASSADOR HOSTED DINNER
FOR VISITORS AND PROMINENT URUGUAYAN SCIENTISTS. VISITORS
WERE IMPRESSED WITH FRIENDLINESS AND HOSPITALITY EXTENDED
THEM BY GOV. ALTHOUGH IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THEIR APPEAL
TO RELEASE MASSERA WAS NEGATIVE THEY REMAIN HOPEFUL.
THEY WERE PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY ASSURANCE FROM MILITARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONTEV 00381 01 OF 02 171300Z

TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT THAT THEIR EFFORTS WOULD NOT HURT
MASSERA'S CASE BUT INSTEAD MIGHT HELP. PRESS TREATMENT
OF VISIT WAS RESTRAINED AND RESPONSIBLE WITH SOLE, NOTABLE
EXCEPTION OF NATIONALISTIC, PRO-GOVERNMENT LA MANANA WHICH
HEADLINED DISTORTED REMARKS OF ANFINSEN THAT GROUP WAS HERE
TO "PRESSURE" GOV AND LATER ATTACKED GROUP FOR NOT BEING
WELL INFORMED ON 1970 TUPAMARO KIDNAP CASE OF CLAUDE FLY
AND FOR NOT PURSUING HUMAN RIGHTS OF SCIENTISTS IN CU2A,
EVEN THOUGH SAME STORY ACKNOWLEDGED WAS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF
SOVIET DISSIDENTS. THIS WAS FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT BY A
FOREIGN GROUP TO BE RECEIVED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOV IN SEVERAL
YEARS. THIS REOPENING OF THE DOOR WHICH WENT SMOOTHLY IS
SIGNIFICANT, EVEN THOUGH IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF MASSERA
RELEASE NOT ACHIEVED. WE BELIEVE HAS EXPERIENCE AUGURS
WELL FOR NEXT, APRIL 3-7 HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT BY AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *J. M. [Signature]* DATE *5/15/78*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DECLASSIFIED

SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 MONTEVIDEO 881

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. ARRIVING MONTEVIDEO EVENING MARCH 9, NAS VISITORS RECEIVED VIP RECEPTION FROM COUNSELOR OF STATE DR. GARCIA CAPURRO, FONMIN PROTOCOL OFFICER AND ARMY COMMAND STAFF OFFICER LT. COL. ESCOBAL WHO ESCORTED THEM THROUGHOUT VISIT. GOU ALSO FURNISHED LIMOUSINE TO GROUP DURING ITS STAY.

3. MARCH 10 PROGRAM OPENED WITH CALL ON CHARGE AT EMBASSY, FOLLOWED BY WORKING LUNCHEON WITH GARCIA CAPURRO. IN AFTERNOON ANFINSEN AND PERRY PRESENTED THREE-HOUR SEMINAR TO PACKED HOUSE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 SCIENTISTS AND MEDICAL DOCTORS AT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE. VISITOR'S IMPRESSION AND LATER REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME URUGUAYAN SCIENTISTS ATTENDED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF VISIT.

4. MORNING OF MARCH 11, NAS VISITORS MET FOR APPROXIMATELY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONTEV 00381 01 OF 02 171300Z

ONE HOUR WITH MATHEMATICIAN JOSE LUIS MASSERA AT LA LIBERTAD "RECUPERATION CENTER." IN PRESENCE OF PRISON COMMANDANT AND ESCORT OFFICER ESCOBAL. MASSERA APPEARED TANNED AND IN GOOD HEALTH DESPITE REMAINING LIMP AND USE OF CANE FROM EARLIER BROKEN PELVIS. VISITORS WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS VERY SUBDUED MANNER, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE LATER TOLD THAT MASSERA HAS ALWAYS BEEN QUIET, INTROSPECTIVE TYPE. MASSERA WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT POSITION ABROAD, PREFERABLY IN ITALY, IF HIS RELEASE/EXPULSION COULD BE ARRANGED, DESPITE HIS PESSIMISM THAT IT COULD BE. ONLY CRITICISM OF CONFINEMENT WAS THAT MASSERA HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN TWO ADVANCED MATHEMATICS BOOKS WHICH WAS HAD SENT VIA AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS. PRISON COMMANDANT SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE BOOKS WERE IN ENGLISH AND THEREFORE COULD NOT RECEIVE REQUIRED SECURITY SCREENING. VISITORS URGED HIM TO RECONSIDER THIS ACTION.

5. IN AFTERNOON, NAS GROUP MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH MRS. MASSERA AT PUNTA RIELES PRISON, AGAIN ACCOMPANIED BY PRISON COMMANDANT AND THEIR MILITARY ESCORT. SHE ALSO APPEARED TO BE TANNED AND IN GOOD HEALTH, DISPLAYING A MUCH LIVELIER SPIRIT THAN HER HUSBAND.

B1 ED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 2

DECLASSIFIED

SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 MONTEVIDEO 281

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04

MONTEV 00001 01 OF 02 171300Z

[REDACTED] B1 E1
7. MORNING MARCH 13, NAS GROUP WAS RECEIVED AT FOREIGN
MINISTRY BY AMBASSADOR AT LARGE MATEO MARQUES-SERE (FORMER
AMB. TO OAS). MARQUES SAID THAT, HAVING RECENTLY LIVED IN
U.S. FOR SOME TIME, HE COULD UNDERSTAND BASIC AMERICAN HUMANI-
TARIAN CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, IN FRIENDLY AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE

3

DECLASSIFIED

SEEAFER JEANNE M
78 MONTEVIDEO 881

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00881 02 OF 02 171344Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 NAS-01 EA-05 EUR-12 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODF-00 PM-05 E-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 MCT-01
/107 W

-----025563 171417Z /46

P R 171155Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6051

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 0881

REASONABLE MANNER, HE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND
GOU POSITION.

8. FOLLOWING COURTESY, NON-HUMAN RIGHTS CALL ON MINISTER
EDUCATION, NAS GROUP MET WITH SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL
PRESIDENT COL. SILVA LEDESMA AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE
TRIBUNAL. ALTHOUGH WE HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT THAT LEDESMA
WOULD BE RATHER FORMAL AND RESERVED (IN REACTION TO HAVING
RECENTLY BEEN "BURNED" BY GOLDMAN STATEMENT IN GENEVA)
VISITORS FOUND HIM SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY AND FORTCOMING.
THERE WERE IMPRESSED BY LEDESMA'S EXPLANATION OF STATUS OF
TRIALS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND INFORMATION HE FURNISHED
TO REFUTE CHARGES ABOUT THE SITUATION OF URUGUAYAN PRISONERS.
RE MASSERA, LEDESMA PRODUCED LARGE STACK OF EVIDENCE AGAINST
HIM AND ALLUDED TO SIGNED CONFESSION BUT DID NOT FURNISH
ANY HARD FACTS RELATED TO SPECIFIC CRIMES. VISITORS GAINED
IMPRESSION THAT GOU MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE CASE AGAINST MASSERA
FOR "SUBVERSION" BUT THEY COULD NOT CONFIRM ITS EXISTANCE
OR WHAT SPECIFICALLY IT MIGHT BE. ANFINSEN OPENED MEETING
BY STRESSING THAT NAS DID NOT WISH TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT
HURT MASSERA'S CASE AND ASKED POINTEDLY IF THEIR VISIT AND
OTHER EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF MIGHT DO THIS. LEDESMA, ASSURED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONTEV 00881 02 OF 02 171344Z

THEM THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. TO THE CONTRARY, HE SAID
TRIBUNAL WAS WILLING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY FROM SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITY AS TO MASSERA'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND WORTH AS A
SCIENTIST WHICH IT WOULD CONSIDER IN DECIDING WHAT
PUNISHMENT HE SHOULD RECEIVE FOR HIS OTHER ACTIVITIES.
NAS VISITOR'S WERE ENCOURAGED BY THIS ASSURANCE.

9. PRESS TREATMENT OF VISIT WAS UNUSUALLY RESTRAINED AND
FAIRLY RESPONSIBLE. NEWSPAPERS ACCURATELY REPORTED PRESS
INTERVIEWS WHICH NAS GROUP GAVE ON ITS ARRIVAL AND
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, EXPLAINING PURPOSE OF THEIR PRIVATE
ORGANIZATION'S VISIT AND NATURE OF ITS CONCERN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS. SOLE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS NATIONALISTIC,
GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING LA MANANA WHICH CARRIED INITIAL INTER-
VIEW UNDER DISTORTED INCORRECT HEADLINE "ANFINSEN ADMITS
PURPOSE IS TO PRESSURE GOVERNMENT." LA MANANA REPEATED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE

4

DECLASSIFIED

SHEAFFER JEANNE
78 MONTEVIDEO 881

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THIS PERFORMANCE IN ITS COVERAGE OF FINAL INTERVIEW, MIXING OTHERWISE ACCURATE REPORT WITH EDITORIAL ATTACK ON GROUP FOR NOT BEING WELL INFORMED ON 1970 TUPAMARO KIDNAPPING OF CLAUDE FLY AND FOR NOT ACTIVELY PURSUING HUMAN RIGHTS OF SCIENTISTS IN CUBA, EVEN THOUGH STORY ACKNOWLEDGED NAS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

10. COMMENT: NAS VISIT, WHICH WENT SMOOTHLY, IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT WAS FIRST HUMAN-RIGHTS VISIT TO BE OFFICIALLY RECEIVED BY GOU IN OVER TWO YEARS. ALTHOUGH VISITORS DID NOT ATTAIN RELEASE OF MASSERA, THEY WERE PERMITTED TO SEE HIM (ALBEIT NOT PRIVATELY), WERE SATISFIED AS TO CONDITIONS OF HIS CONFINEMENT, AND THEY RETAIN SOME HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT YET BE ABLE, IN SOME WAY, TO EXPEDITE HIS RELEASE OR AMELIORATE HIS EVENTUAL SENTENCE. GOU WAS REASONABLY ADEPT IN HANDLING VISIT. HOWEVER, DESPITE HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT OF PRESIDENT, MINISTERS, DEFENSE MINISTER AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONTEV 00881 02 OF 02 1713447

FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER PAST SIX MONTHS. GOU STILL DID NOT PREPARE ITSELF TO EXTENT OF ELIMINATING FLAWS SUCH AS WITHHOLDING OF NAS BOOKS FROM MASSERA AND OF HIS LETTERS TO HIS WIFE. WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY LEDESMA'S HANDLING OF VISITORS. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED COLD SHOULDER AS WELL AS BY PRESS TREATMENT, DESPITE UNFORTUNATE IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING BY LA MANANA. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE VISIT WAS WORTHWHILE DOOR OPENER WHICH AUGERS WELL FOR APRIL 3-7 ABA VISIT.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: WE DISCUSSED VISIT WITH NAS GROUP PRIOR TO DEPARTURE BUT DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THIS REPORT WITH THEM. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT SHOWING IT TO JAY DAVENPORT TO ASSURE THAT WE HAVE ACCURATELY CONVEYED NAS IMPRESSIONS OF VISIT. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISE TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH BUTLER FOR HIS BACKGROUND.

PEZZULLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED